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THE ROSE-BUSH IN THE UPPER WINDOW.

Down in the heart of the city's slums,
Where want is rife, and sorrow comes,
Where misery reigns, and hunger, and grief
Where squalor and filth are found alone,
And Intemperance revels in its glory,
Where murder and shame are found alone,
And Christianity never is known,
Stands a tenement, towering, old,
Reaching with dampness, grey with mould.
Rickety stairways, creaking doors,
Home of the wretched, beggars and thieves.
About the dozen through the livelong day
Children in rags and children at play
Push from its portals robbed crew
Into the alley, and then pass through
Into the depth of many dawn
Dirty and squalid, and forlorn.
Within, each gloomily furnished room
Responds but poverty, crime, and gloom.
The home of a drunkard's wife
Upon the sky in these narrow walls
Within, each quantity furnished room
Responds but poverty, crime, and gloom.
The home of a drunkard's wife
Upon the sky in these narrow walls
No second of home-like memory rest,
But cold, and quarrel, and drunken jest
Come forth to tell of the hell within,
That watched home of sorrow and sin.

Yet, up in a window, beneath the roof
Of that tenement, so fit sited
From the haunts of fashion, I saw one day,
A simple flower had sprung up,
A simple flower had sprung up,
And I knew that it had sprung
On the cliff, and its name was ground
That flower must with a beauty rare,
And I knew that some hand placed it there
And watered it daily but still a part
Of—God grown purely in her heart.
For that modest bud in the window high,
So longing to smile in the clear, blue sky,
Lovingly looking to heaven above,
Told of a heart filled with love.
For some thing—of an inward grace
That to me and to all you yet efface.

So oft as I passed that window high,
I'd upward glance to that window high,
And wonder whose was the tender care
That watched and nurtured that flower there.
One day as I passed at rapid pace
I caught a glimpse of a pale, wan face
Peering out from the window high.
And I said to myself, I know not why—
As I hurried on, "The spell is o'er.
That lovely flower will bloom no more."

I passed again, one sombre morn,
Through that dark and dingy street forlorn.
The very heavens seemed to mourn;
The rain was pouring in torrents down;
A cadence sad and low complete
Had settled down on that lonely street;
And I knew not why, but over my soul
A sudden and dark foreboding stole;
So I hastened it down in my rapid worn,
And upward looked for the flower—I was gone,
Whether the hour a charity was
Pleading for, and I saw a man
Placing a coffin within a hearse, and this,
On a rude pine coffin that laid within.

TRIED BY FIRE.

BY MRS. MARY F. SCHUYLER.

CHAPTER I.

A STARTLING REVELATION.

"Good morning, papa!" It was a silvery, mirthful voice, such as remind one of the soft tinkle of bells over snow—of the gushing music of a bounding rivulet—of the trilling song of a bird, and which, like all these, sends through the heart, even in sadness, a thrill of joy. The speaker bounded forward with the graceful movements of an antelope, threw her white arms around her father's neck, and kissed him on either cheek. "I knew I should find you here knee-deep in papers and dry-goods bills, and that's why you would not come down to the store without bringing a great roll of papers home with you to pore over till midnight, to say nothing of getting up before dawn to resume the pleasing task." If not, I would hire an extra clerk." Without waiting for a reply she perched herself on his knee, and rattled on in her bright, precious way. "You do not ask me how I enjoyed the party last night. I shall not tell you, however, for I am come to talk of something else. Madame La Forte's soiree will be a week from to-night—next Thursday—as I have already told you not less than fifty times. Well, I am going with Harry, of course, and I mean to look splendid. It takes five feathers to make fan birds you, know, and I have decided to wear scarlet, very scarlet, that I have never worn before. So I have come to give you a list of what I really must have, knowing I shall get all I ask for, as I always do. Let me tell you that—placing a white hand firmly over his mouth as she saw he was about to speak—"firstly: I must have a massive silk with point lace trimmings; secondly, gloves and fan to match; thirdly, a few dollars for the dressmaker, ribbons and other things, and—well, I guess those are all for this time." She gave him another caress, settled herself more comfortably on his knee, and smiled in his face with a self satisfied air.

"Sit here, my child," her father said, gravely, drawing a low stool to his feet and desiring her upon it as he spoke; "I want to talk with you."

"Yes, you want to lecture me on economy," she said, with a pretty pout. "You have lectured me so often of late that I know it by the whole rigmarole by heart. You'll tell me that I am a spoiled child—which I know is true—and that I should be more careful of money, and that I shall not find such a page to lavish money and all its attendant luxuries upon me, which I hope is not true, and then you'll wind up by kissing me, and saying that I shall have everything I ask for, because you love me so dearly. What a dear old darling you are, papa!" she exclaimed, rising up and caressing his again. "I am proud of you, indeed I am!"

Light-hearted by nature, and having never known sorrow in any form, is it a wonder she could not see the dark cloud already hovering over her home, or the deep face which grief and care had worn in her father's face? Her life had been one long round of pleasure—a fairy dream with nothing harsh or practical to break even for a moment the enchanted spell. She was not indifferent to the sorrows of others, however, but loving the sunlight she sought its rays, and basking in its noonday glories—exerting its rich colors and aerial hues, she instinctively shunned all that were dark or heavy, or that could cloud the sunshine of her joyous nature. Yet beneath that joyous exterior flowed—though she knew it not—a current deep and mighty, though noiseless; a current pure and unsullied by the world's vile touch, and white, like the slumbering volcano, needed some agitating power to cause it to show its latent strength. To all appearances she was a spoiled child of wealth and fashion. Society, however, strange as it may seem of one of her temperament, had done her no serious harm. Vain, ill had made her somewhat wilful, fond of dress, and not averse to admiration; but those subtle influences calculated to dwarf and undermine the budding principles of pure womanhood had glanced off her, as water, when dashed against a clean smooth surface, drips to the ground and leaves no trace behind.

"Listen a moment; I have no desire to lecture you, Ada," her father said, wearily. "I wish simply to ask you what you would do if we should become poor."

"Do?" she said half petulantly; "how can I tell? I should not like it, I am very sure of that. I suppose, though, I should do as Carrie does, poor girl; her I pity her! And she so pretty and sweet, too! I have three dresses to her one, and she has only pearls, where I have pearls and diamonds and other jewelry almost beyond count. She is a dear girl, though, and I am going to let her wear my diamonds to Madam's soiree! I shall wear pearls, which are far prettier than diamonds with point lace, I think."

"Then, you call your friend poor when she moves in the first circles, and her father's income is at least three thousand a year—and she, like you, an only child? Oh, Heaven!" he groaned, covering his face with his hands; "must I tell you, child, what poverty really is?"

She looked up at him with wide open eyes. "What have I said which pains you, papa?" she asked, quickly. "I did not mean to be thoughtless, though I am never anything else, and you always laugh at me as if you expect nothing better of me."

He uncovered his face and smoothed back her loose wavy hair, with trembling hand.

"What should you know of storms when you have always lived in the sunshine, little one?" he said, with ineffable tenderness. "Then you have seen the back streets of our city, where want, and dirt, and squalor prevail—where people fear not God, and care for man so far that they escape the punishment he is capable of inflicting; you have seen the beggar on our streets with no place when night came to lay his head; the woman, with her child pressed close to her despairing heart, suffering from hunger and cold, anguish, desperation, perhaps remorse, stamped on every feature, and praying for only death: the little child on the street corners, with thin, extended hand, beseeching the passer-by for a penny with which to purchase food for a sick and starving parent. Tell me, child, is poverty, and they who endure it are human beings."

While these words were being said, the joyous light that flashed from the girl's large hazel eyes, and animated every feature of her face, gave place to a deep, earnest, thoughtful expression, which one would think such eyes could gain only by years of thought and sad experiences.

"But I thought this was degradation, papa; not so much a poverty of purse as poverty of mind," she said, earnestly. "Surely none but those whose mental powers are terribly dwarfed, as possibly now and then one to whom fate has been very unkind, could come down to either of the conditions you have named."

"Those, of course, are among the worst forms of poverty. There are other grades, however. What I meant to ask you was, what you would do if we should become poor, in the general acceptation of the word. Say so poor that you would be obliged to wear cheap dresses, and hats, and jewelry such as Mary, our housemaid, wears?"

"Papa!" she said, her old impetuous manner asserting itself, and her dark eyes flashing with scorn, as she sprang erect from her seat, "I am more robe, "I dress as Mary does? I should die—that is what I should do; die of very shame! I should not dare to live a week under so great a humiliation."

Again he bowed his head in his hands. He had hoped something, he hardly knew what; but now, even that a light reed was broken, he must face the storm alone.

Again that magical change swept over the girl's face. Something like a shadow of the truth seemed to have dawned upon her, for her lips form merged for a moment as if beneath a heavy burden. Then all the surface all was calm again. She rose to her feet and slipped one jewelled arm round his neck.

"Papa," she said, in her clear, musical tones, "tell me what trouble you have, that some danger threatens us. Let me bear it with you. Trust me, papa; I am nearer a true woman than you think."

He raised his haggard face to hers.

"You know not what you ask, my child," he said. "Only a moment ago you were declaring that you would rather die than be poor, and now you are urging me to tell you that which may result in something infinitely worse."

"But I am not what I was a few moments ago," she pleaded; "you will find me much stronger. Let the truth be what it may, you will need my sympathy. I have promised and I shall not fail you."

There was a silence of some minutes. The heavy breathing of the man; the gentle respiration of the girl, the ticking of the clock sitting on a delicate bracket in one corner of the library; the snapping of the fire in the grate, were the only sounds that broke the death-like stillness pervading the room. The girl turned, and with noiseless step glided to the window, and looked out into the dreary, chilly November day. All was wet, and cold, and dreary—more dreary than she had ever seen it in her life before, and she wondered why there was no fire. She did not know that there must be sorrow in the heart ere the damp and chill from without can reach it. Heretofore it mattered not if it snowed, or rained, or if the clouds drifted in inky blackness across the sky, there was always sunshine in her heart. But now she gave a shudder, such a one as had never thrilled her frame before, and turned her eyes on her father's sorrow-stricken countenance. She approached him again; not with her airy bounding step, but with slow measured tread.

"In all my life you have never refused me anything that I asked of you, papa, and must you refuse me now?" She lifted his head and smoothed back his hair—damp with agony—from his pale brow. "I will be very brave," she continued. "I give you my word that I shall not disappoint you. I have been very perverse, very wilful all my life; but I have been truthful, have I not?"

"You have, Ada," he answered in an agonized tone. "You are too proud to stoop to falsehood—too proud to even prevaricate, and that pride is what I fear; for the proud always suffer most. But you must know it sooner or later, and may Heaven sustain you, my child, for, save a few hundred dollar or I am not worth a dollar in the world!"

It was a heavy blow, and it came near crushing her beneath its weight. She dropped on her knees beside him, and withdrawing a veil, hid her face on his breast, her slight form quivering like an aspen.

"You are too young—you have been too tenderly nurtured to bear so cruel a shock, my child!" he cried, in an agony of remorse. "Through my womanish cravings for sympathy, I have dealt you a blow, the half of whose sorrow might have been spared you had I been less fearful."

She was herself in a moment. "Forgive me, papa," she said sweetly, rising and standing beside him again; "I had not dreamed it could be so bad. Is there no hope? Is all really gone—everything?"

"Everything," he reiterated, hopelessly. "I cannot possibly hold out longer than a week or—that is, if I get no further advances from my creditors. My affairs are in such shape, however, that I can suspend with a fair competence. But in doing this I should leave others to suffer, and I think to tell you, my child, that for your mother's sake and yours, I have even contemplated this act."

"Never?" she cried, with a flash of her old spirit. "I would rather hold up my head again, should you do this act for the sake of maintaining me in luxury. I have youth and health and strength, and I hope ordinary intelligence. Heaven forbid that you ever sacrifice the name you have thus long kept untarnished—the honor you hold so dear."

"I thank you for those words, my child," he answered, with deep emotion. "But you only partly realize the extent of your sacrifice. You forget that you are the promised bride of Harry Delmont. Under changed circumstances may prove a matter of vital importance to him."

The light of newly-awakened sympathy faded from the girl's eyes, and every vestige of color forsook her face. Drop a feather, and it is perishable, smile played for a moment about her white lips—a smile very wistful—very tender, yet very proud.

"Harry Delmont is not the man who would desert his promised bride because she proves worth less in worldly goods than he thought—or, if he is," she added firmly, a swift light coming into the dark eyes—"and this knowledge fills me with scorn character, we may well thank Heaven that it has fallen."

He looked upon her with pleased surprise He had had faith in her all her life. Even in her most reckless gaiety he had believed her better than the gay butterfly she seemed. She was so much a child, however, that he had not dared expect anything better from her, at first, than tears and protestations, and, perhaps, bursts of temper: and this dignity of manner, this strict adherence to the right, this strength of character, filled him with sweet sympathy and encouragement, warmed his chilled breast and strengthened him to grapple with the unpleasant duties before him. And as he looked on her in her fresh young womanhood, with the world all before her, his own spirits began to rise. This sorrow would not be for long, he hoped. Feminine natures were things so mutable. The caprices of childhood would never wear away, and in the more engaging pursuits of the hour she would forget, or rather put aside, this fanciful devotion to wealth and position. So he preceded to tell her his plans for the future, in delicate poetic language—for his temperament was scarce less poetic than her own—throwing over all an air of romance which divested the future of much of its harsher aspect; and, though she drew her breath hard, as she thought how far removed was the world he painted from the one she now occupied, she uttered no complaint. Neither did she murmur at the fate that cost her to accept this new life so composedly.

"Does mamma know?" she asked, when he had finished.

"She knows nothing; I have not had courage to tell her. Can you tell her?" he asked, deprecatingly. And then he paused and wondered at himself for having so much faith upon one who, an hour ago, was a mere child in his eyes. "It will go very hard with her," he resumed, falteringly. "She will not bear it half so well as you, and for that reason I have deferred telling her." He dropped his eyes as if half ashamed of his cowardice, and fell to studying listlessly the pattern of the carpet at his feet, a heart Mr. Venner was no coward. On the contrary, he was brave and true, noble and highly generous, and his sensitive nature shrank from a grief he could not assuage, or pleadings that he could not ratify. They are only the mean and cowardly who bear unmoved the tears and pleadings of those whom they profess to love. "I am asking too much of you, my child," he said, at length, breaking in on his own reverie, "in asking you to do this for me. I am asking too much of you, my child, when I thought," he added, quickly, "I should have been in the store an hour or more." And speaking a few words of kindly encouragement, and kissing her good-bye, he hurried away, with a man's instinctive dread of trouble, quickening his pace with every step, as if lengthening the distance between himself and home would make the burden lighter for her who had yet to feel its weight.

Left to herself, with none to witness her grief, the girl turned to face the reality, now dimmed by the haze of years of indulgence and wealth. She had little taste for either moral or mental improvement, and none whatever for any kind of genuine employment, and who, as on this occasion, found herself debarred her from the pleasant pastime of shopping or making and receiving calls, the hours dragged slowly and wearily by. She was a rather pretty woman, he buried away," with a man's instinctive dread of trouble, quickening his pace with every step, as if lengthening the distance between himself and home would make the burden lighter for her who had yet to feel its weight.

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"I will write papa a letter," she said, at length, "telling him that I am sorry for his misfortunes, and that I will do anything he wishes me to do, and you will feel better after writing a while," Ada said quickly. "I will go now, for papa will be waiting."

She left the room, carefully closing the door after her. She would not allow her thoughts to dwell even for a second on her sorrow in her way down stairs, and she swept into the dining-room with a ray of sunshine through the gloom of the dull, stormy day. Her father was watching the door with gentle, nervous trust. His name formed in most loving tones, and he looked long and anxiously down upon the smiling upturned face.

"What are you my child?" he asked tenderly, looking upon the beautiful face which he had been hidden by the world's rough shell all these years until the light was so ruthlessly let into the darkened chamber of your soul?"

"I hope so, papa," she said, while tears gathered in her bright eyes. "Anyway it is a comfort to have you think so. I have told mamma that I have been in bed all day with a headache, but is not coming down, Shall I order dinner now?"

CHAPTER II.

FACING THE REALITY.

It was not till Ada was alone in her room that the reaction came. When there, she rang for her maid, and told her that she had a headache of the afternoon, for a night-wrapper fastened at the waist with a heavy cord and tassel.

"You may go now, Nannette," she said; then with a sudden remembrance for the girl, whose lot was so like her own must soon be, she added: "You are a good girl, Nannette. Hate is a dress for you. It is not even soiled, and I have grown tired of it. With some slight changes it will fit you nicely."

"Oh, thank you! thank you!" the girl ejaculated, her eyes sparkling with delight, as she held the dress up before her and admired its bright warm colors. "you are so good to me, Miss Ada; always so good to me!"

She left the room with her treasure humming a gay air as she skipped down the hall.

"I shall not dress to-day, neither shall I go down to dinner. Who, save you, could think of dining off silver to-day, when to-morrow we may have nothing better than pewter! And you could even meet my friends disgraced and humiliated, as I shall be!" she cried, wringing her hands and moaning piteously.

"You need not meet them," the girl said bitterly. "It all probability you will never come to us, and we need not go to them."

"No, they will not come to us! how could they, cast off and degraded as we shall be! And I shall be shut up in some hovel to know nothing of the outside world, to pine and die alone with none to care for me. Oh! that I should ever come to this! To have your father to sink down to the level of a common lawyer again, the very point from which he first started! It is dreadful! dreadful to be thus shut out from every earthly blessing! If only you could sympathize with me!" she cried, rocking to and fro, as if the excess of her lost fortune depended entirely on rapidity of her movements; "but you are incapable of the sympathy I need. Like your father, you think it very easy to live and give our last dollar to a set of grasping thieves. Oh, that I should have lived to see this day!" she cried again, striking her jewelled hands together with a violence that startled and sound which would naturally have impressed one with the idea that the gems on her plump fingers were going through a course of spontaneous explosion "this dreadful, dreadful day!"

To this mindless, soulless woman the thought of being cast off and neglected by the fashionable world was the very acme of sorrow, and to her thought—as sympathy for the husband and father who had toiled all these weary years, only to see when health and strength were beginning to fail- his hard earned fortune swept away at once—she was too thoroughly selfish and vain to care for anything but that which would result to her own personal benefit.

Ada was not to blame so much for the loss of wealth as the loss of power that the world caused. Could she have hid her poverty from the world, and still retained her position in society—the wherewithal to dress and make a display—her troubles would have been comparatively light. She would have feasted whilst others feasted, would have retrenched household expenses for outside glitter and show, to the sacrifice of every comfort and convenience which make home so dear, and would have borne all consequent hardships with a heroism capable of rivaling the self-immolation of the bravest spartan. Mrs. Venner belonged pre-eminently to the world. Dress and display were her gods, and she worshipped them with a zeal and devotion worthy a better cause. To her eyes there was no life equal to this. Blinded as she was by the glamor of the world, the higher life entirely escaped her. That better life which associates itself with nature and draws its greatest and purest enjoyment from her "ample store of light and color, and sunshine and song, was a sealed book to her. In all her simple, voiceless life, she had never spoken a plainer truth than when she said there was no romance in her composition. She had not even enough of the finer instincts of the poet to tire of the false pleasures that had enchanted her these years; and when those idols were taken from her, there was nothing left in which she could turn for sympathy or enjoyment.

"How's grieve so, mamma," Ada said, smilingly, "you will be ill in bed if you continue to give way in this way. Let down, and let papa give us some of those drops, which the doctor left for you when you had one of your bad spells. They always help you when you are tired and nervous."

Mrs. Venner submitted with the manner of a conquered child, and when Ada had made her comfortable, lay weeping silently.

"I will go down and tell papa you are ill, and will administer to you myself," Ada said, "I will call Margaret to sit by you, child I can't Papa will feel so lonely if neither of us come down."

"No!" responded Mrs. Venner, with a nervous rush as soon to hold enough to frame words, but the impossibility of putting even "I will only allow you, I shall be very angry if you do not," she added, with a petulant tone long disused.

"I will bring you a cup of tea myself, and something to eat, and you will feel better after resting a while," Ada said quickly. "I will go now, for papa will be waiting."

She left the room, carefully closing the door after her. She would not allow her thoughts to dwell even for a second on her sorrow in her way down stairs, and she swept into the dining-room with a ray of sunshine through the gloom of the dull, stormy day. Her father was watching the door with gentle, nervous trust. His name formed in most loving tones, and he looked long and anxiously down upon the smiling upturned face.

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"It will never do," she said, decidedly. "Your romantic ideas are very well in themselves, but you cannot expect to adopt them. Your father must say nothing of our misfortunes at present, if he can help it, and for a few weeks I shall. Lose word of sorrow-agreeable from me will come Harry in plead for an early marriage. To make it look more on people like that, and going to the country for the holidays. People will understand that Harry urged an early wedding to save having received if your society. When your father is settled in his work may come; I will then it as best I can."

A singular expression flitted across the girl's face. It might have been sensible—it might have been cunning; but that there was a fixed determination in it, her next words verified beyond a doubt.

"I can never consent to that, mamma," she said; "and if he or you to say not to need to Harry about it, he will be very humiliation if you love me, for I have already suffered more than you think."

"Perverse as ever!" Mrs. Venner said, with rising anger. "Little you know of what is before you. What do you know of poverty? You who in all your life never had a wish ungratified! I have felt its galling chains, and no child of mine shall ever have a stake in your cradle. Were you my greatest child you would hear to me and ever what I have suffered."

"Yet, those were happy days, mamma," murmured the girl, kneeling over her mother's knee, her fertile imagination painting a picturesque cottage, nestled in its green cup of vine shrubbery—a fair young mother with her infant in her arms—the strong happy husband hurrying his good-bye kiss at the door, and hurrying away, consoling himself with the thought that business hours would soon be over, when he would hasten back to his loved ones.

A soft light dawned for a moment in the mother's eyes, but faded out as quickly as it had come. "Yes, I was happy then for I knew nothing better. But after having lived on the ambrosia of the gods, how can I go back to the coarse food of the common herd! I tell you, child, you know nothing about it!" she cried, with her jewelled hands on the knees of her chair in the very paroxysm of passion. "And you stand there like a marble statue, and feel as insensible as if your condition. Why, child! do you know that the very gas-lamps we have on, cost as much as the whole year's income of a day laborer! And you are so romantic to think that Harry Delmont, rich and talented, the reigning pet of society, will play King Cophetua and marry the beggar maid! Where is the good sense your father always claimed you were possessed of?"

"Mother," and Ada's weary voice told how harshly her mother's cruel words had passed on the delicate chords of her sensitive nature. "will you spare me this much? Will you say no more about this matter to-day? Let me be the first dinner bell, and you still have on your morning gown. Shall I summon Margaret to help you dress?"

"No, I shall not dress to-day, neither shall I go down to dinner. Who, save you, could think of dining off silver to-day, when to-morrow we may have nothing better than pewter! And you could even meet my friends disgraced and humiliated, as I shall be!" she cried, wringing her hands and moaning piteously.

"You need not meet them," the girl said bitterly. "In all probability you will never come to us, and we need not go to them."

"No, they will not come to us! how could they, cast off and degraded as we shall be! And I shall be shut up in some hovel to know nothing of the outside world, to pine and die alone with none to care for me. Oh! that I should ever come to this! To have your father to sink down to the level of a common lawyer again, the very point from which he first started! It is dreadful! dreadful to be thus shut out from every earthly blessing! If only you could sympathize with me!" she cried, rocking to and fro, as if the excess of her lost fortune depended entirely on rapidity of her movements; "but you are incapable of the sympathy I need. Like your father, you think it very easy to live and give our last dollar to a set of grasping thieves. Oh, that I should have lived to see this day!" she cried again, striking her jewelled hands together with a violence that startled and sound which would naturally have impressed one with the idea that the gems on her plump fingers were going through a course of spontaneous explosion "this dreadful, dreadful day!"

To this mindless, soulless woman the thought of being cast off and neglected by the fashionable world was the very acme of sorrow, and to her thought—as sympathy for the husband and father who had toiled all these weary years, only to see when health and strength were beginning to fail- his hard earned fortune swept away at once—she was too thoroughly selfish and vain to care for anything but that which would result to her own personal benefit.

Ada was not to blame so much for the loss of wealth as the loss of power that the world caused. Could she have hid her poverty from the world, and still retained her position in society—the wherewithal to dress and make a display—her troubles would have been comparatively light. She would have feasted whilst others feasted, would have retrenched household expenses for outside glitter and show, to the sacrifice of every comfort and convenience which make home so dear, and would have borne all consequent hardships with a heroism capable of rivaling the self-immolation of the bravest spartan. Mrs. Venner belonged pre-eminently to the world. Dress and display were her gods, and she worshipped them with a zeal and devotion worthy a better cause. To her eyes there was no life equal to this. Blinded as she was by the glamor of the world, the higher life entirely escaped her. That better life which associates itself with nature and draws its greatest and purest enjoyment from her "ample store of light and color, and sunshine and song, was a sealed book to her. In all her simple, voiceless life, she had never spoken a plainer truth than when she said there was no romance in her composition. She had not even enough of the finer instincts of the poet to tire of the false pleasures that had enchanted her these years; and when those idols were taken from her,

them beautiful sights and sounds. When the dinner bell rang it shook its light head—drew tall forests low at his approach and the whole animal kingdom flee before his wrath, the inspired soul of the poet rises on the wings of the wind, on it goes, gaining strength as it soars, until the bard draws himself to his utmost height. If nature our's upon him and his heart be heavy, he can not in sun for sympathy; but soon he from the objects and scenes he loves, he approach the very grass seems to whisper a welcome—the flowers bend their fragile heads and wasp with him, the rivulet's joyous ripple sinks in a sympathetic murmur, and the birds hill their most plaintive notes in honor of his guest.

Ada's spirits, true to her poetic nature, sank with the storm. Again she looked out into the gulley night. All was cold, dark and dreary. Was that the world really as cruel as she had read? Were love and purity, and all the finer feelings with which we are endowed, sacrificed to the one god of the vulgar gain? Her mother's fascinating words of the morning were as a heated iron touching in her soul, to whose poignant wounds she could not be insensible, even for a moment. Those words were running in her mind, and scattering doubt along her path.

"And you are so romantic as to think that Harry Dalmont, rich and talented, a pet of society, will play King Cophetua and marry the beggar maid?" In society a vast number of place in which seats were sold for gold, the affections crushed, and truth and purity counted as nought—the victims beholding their sacrifice the act of appearing before the world that which they are not, and all for the sake of bringing the highest sawbuck price? Was it for this that women lived and died? Was this the mode in our enlightened fulfilling the command of Him who bade us to love and honor, not the gold gained by marriage, but the one with whom we are to journey through life. "Sir, Ada, you are strange. Do you love Mr. Dalmont, or not?" Yet she felt the truth gaining upon her every moment, felt with her naturally quick perception that this marriage do unhappiness to her friend and involve the loss of society. There, it seemed all fiction—the imaginings of some fertile brain—as she had thought. The world was not a garden of flowers, and her path had already passed by a dismal barren plain, over which the trail of the serpent was everywhere to be seen. And she must drift out on this cold storm-beaten plain, a waif and a stray, in free poverty, the world's coldness, and the contempt of her late friend—the one brave of affection exalted in her heart—and left to converse themselves with their sweet longing for the sweet dead past. Oh, if one human heart was not left to warm her, one human soul to sympathize with her, how could she endure the heartwriting on the wall. The fiat had gone forth. Remembered no more had a place in society. Her mother's will of others for her daily bread. She must give up wealth, love, everything but life. She knew she should not die. She had read numberless times of the poor sewing girl, at last not till they are utterly consumed by sorrow. And she was young and so strong! she should live years, no doubt. Sorrow does its work so slowly in many cases, that the victim sees the night when it has been down through the day, that its cruel fear may last the longer. Yes it was all clear to her now. All the anguish and humiliation, and suffering of thought, and still the fire darkened and sparkled, the wind sighed through the tree tops, and still that constant drip, drip, drip of the rain. She had thought she suffered as she lay upon the library floor that terrible night, but then there was none of the disappointment of a wayward child who has had his favorite bauble, than the grief of a strong, self-reliant woman. But here, in the darkness and loneliness of midnight, she had viewed the world stripped of its rainbow hues—had seen her poetic fancies fade, one by one before the pathosophy of cold, hard reality—had seen the path which she must henceforth tread, and knew that it was rough, barren, desolate. Ah? how the truth pulled her proud sensitive spirit?

It must be borne in mind that Ada was of the age and kind to whom, until sorrow comes, life is one long day of perpetual sunshine. Such natures pluck the flowers in their path with eager hand, and enjoy the ambrosial dew from their luscious hearts, think not of the viper lying coiled among the gorgeous colors. They skim over the surface of things, on airy wing, seeking light and joy and ambition, same butterfly-like in the genial warmth, basking in the sunshine of some ruthless hand. And all her joyous life Ada had skimmed over the surface of things, butterfly fashion, never dreaming that a smiling face could be a mask, at which the worn of discontent grows incessantly, or that the lives of one-half of the world are living lies. It is doubtful if even her mother knew her, for she was inscrutable of nature, and her self-control did not overshipped. And if society ever had a faithful devotee at her jewelled shrine Mrs. Vesmer was certainly that one. She would resume her hands in the very tightest gloves she could get on, endure excruciating agony from tight boots for the sake of having her foot look well; go to church for the sake of showing off her rich apparel, and rattling her diamonds; and was at the very acme of female happiness when she was answering some other woman. If she had any other prevailing traits of character they were of this same order. It was so impossible for her to rise above her natural status as it would be for one to soar boldly to the stars, with no other aid than the mere force of will. Her mother was to blame for this, in the fact that she was incapable of appreciating a higher life, and if Mrs. Vesmer had ever made an effort to rise above her common life there was no living soul to help her.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Important to Know.

Envelopes were first used in 1839.
The first steel pen was made in 1830.
The first air pump was made in 1650.
Anesthesia was first discovered in 1841.
The first balloon ascent was made in 1783.
The first lucifer matches were made in 1829.
The cotton Hebrew Bible was printed in 1488.
The first iron steamship was built in 1820.
Ships were first propelled by steam in 1807.
Coaches were first used in England in 1509.
The first bank of deposit was started in 1782.
The first incumbent piled the Bastinado in 1687.
Gold was first discovered in California in 1848.
The first watches were made at Nuremberg in 1477.
Omnibuses were introduced in New York in 1839.
The first newspaper advertisement appeared in 1652.
The first copper cent was coined in New Haven in 1787.
Kerosene was first used for lighting purposes in 1826.
The first telescope was probably used in England in 1609.
The first iron-maker's anvil was brought to America in 1621.
The first model of a locomotive in this country was in 1825.
The first steamboat was printed by George Von Pasch in 1543.
The first almanacs were introduced into Rome from Persia in 1288.
The first newspaper printed in the United States was in 1704.
The first printing-press in the continent was established in 1539.
The first printing-press in America was established in 1638.
The first printing-press in Boston was established in 1674.
The first printing-press in Philadelphia was established by Miss Bradford in 1685.
The first printing-press in Germantown was established by Christopher Sower, Jr., in 1738.

LOVE DOCTOR.

BY JOHN PAYNE.

SONNET.

Kiss me once more, sweet love. One parting kiss
And Love is laid in peace for all the past.
The time hath broken each remembrance fast
That bound us each to each in happiness.
Thanks to me hard to break—for now I miss
Not this nor that, but all, and at last
The time is come when I can look aback
And see the end of all our bitterness.
The time is come when I can look aback
And see the end of all our bitterness.
The time is come when I can look aback
And see the end of all our bitterness.

MY BETTER WOMAN.

Would the dissatisfaction such a perfect pen
Of my sentiment awaken?
Would the rare but flawless accent perfume
If the words of love were spoken?
Would the dewdrops seem so clear and pure
If the sun were not shining?
Or the little warmest be half so great
If all were cold and pining?

'Tis the hand or not to the meeting bird
That stirs with the grow of wood;
'Tis the voice or tender, the sweeter wind
That rules without regret;
And the heart that is filled by the solid and high
May fade, and pine, and grieve,
But would still be the best of the best
In the little women's way.

COURT CEREMONIES.

A "court" consists of a reception by Her Majesty (Queen Victoria) to which no one can go who has not received a command so to do. These commands are generally confined to the members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Ministry, members of the royal household, and other persons holding official positions. If a court is held, it is generally the first court reception of the year — none took place this season. Both ladies and gentlemen are invited to a court, and presentations may be made on command. Dress rooms are the means by which ladies are enabled to be presented to and to pay their respects to Her Majesty. There are usually three in the year, one before Easter, and two, of late years with but one day's interval between them—early in May. This Spring, however, there were two before Easter, making four in all. "Presentation" and "Court Levee day drawing room" held on the day appointed for the official celebration of the Queen's birthday, at which no presentations could be made, and at which gentlemen appear in mourning; but close "the" mourning for the Prince Consort this has been abandoned. Only ladies are expected to present themselves at drawing-rooms, and gentlemen are not supposed to attend in company with the ladies of their families, but must first receive from the Queen a "Command" to present themselves. The notice is always given in the Gazette of a drawing-room at which gentlemen will be held. *Ladies who have already presented need take no steps as to announcing their intention of presenting themselves*; they give the Palace on the day appointed, taking with them the large cards of their names lightly written on one, one to be left in the cage in the corridor, the other given to the Lord Chamberlain's page in waiting, to present to the Queen. A lady who wishes to be presented must first find a friend willing to present her, and to whom she is personally known, and then she is going she must then some days—two full days at least—previously inform the Lord Chamberlain of her intention, and of the name of the Lord Chamberlain's page in waiting. Each of these two large cards inscribed with her name and address of the lady presenting her, thus: "The Countess of C., on occasion to the title, by the Duchess of Z.," "Mrs. Brown on her marriage, by Mrs. Whyte," "Mrs. Brown to Mrs. Whyte," "Mrs. Brown to Mrs. Whyte, by her mother, Mrs. White," &c. These cards must be accompanied by a note from the lady who is to present, stating the name of the person to be presented, and presenting the the drawing-room and presenting the cards. The same hours for presentation as at the Queen, two presentation cards may be obtained, on which the same words are to be written as on those left at the office, and these are taken by the lady to the palace. "Full dress" is a compulsory at a drawing room. The orthodox costume consists of a train of an extra large length of three yards, a low bodice (unless a special dispensation is granted Her Majesty's permission to wear a square bodice have been obtained), a skirt matching either the bodice or the train, lappets of the tulle veil, and a court plume, consisting of three white feathers for a married, or two for an unmarried lady. Ladies have the honor to kiss Her Majesty's hand on presentation, with the exception of princesses and daughters of peers, who are kissed on the cheek by the Queen. When Her Majesty retires from levee, the Princess of Wales, and other royal ladies merely curtsey, and do not kiss hands. A lady is presented when she first comes out, and judges of any change of dress appropriate on her marriage; for instance, Miss A. presented as a debutante—Miss A., the son of the Earl of C., and grandson of the Marquis of D., is presented as "Hon. Mrs. B." on her marriage, as "Countess of C." on the death of her husband's grandfather, and as "Marchioness D." on the death of his father. The ceremonies observed by gentlemen with regard to presentation at levees correspond precisely with those observed by ladies. A gentleman is presented on first entering life, and at all subsequent stages of his career. For instance, an officer would be presented as a sub-lieutenant, and again on attaining each successive grade of rank, the words "On promotion" being appended to the "presentation." It is unnecessary that the presentation should be made by the colonel of his regiment; that by a personal friend. Gentlemen are also presented on change of name, on receiving an appointment, on accession to a title—the "Hon." on change of station. When the Queen holds a levee in person, gentlemen presented kiss her hand, when the Prince of Wales holds a levee in her half, they merely bow. The dress at levees is, for ordinary civilians, a dress coat of blue or colored cloth coat of any color except blue (which is appropriated by diplomatists, ministers and members of the household), a white dress coat, but single-breasted, and with a straight collar and jacket. Epaulettes, the collar and cuffs of which are embroidered in drawing rooms. State concerts or balls, breeches, silk stockings, and shoes with buckles must be worn; for levees, trousers of cloth, or of velvet if the coat is of velvet, with narrow gold lace down the outside seam of each leg. White necktie, sword and cocked hat are distinguish. The old court dress may also be worn—a cloth dress coat, with gold lace and buttons in front, cuts and pocket flaps, embroidered on the waistcoat, lace ruffles and jabot, white stock, knee breeches, silk stockings, buckled shoes a big wig at the back of the head, etc. Officers wear their full dress uniform of their rank. Clergymen wear the academic robes, Queen's Counsel their silk gowns, Judges their full robes, of course, when the latter are invited to balls or concerts, the gowns are dispensed with, and they appear in civilian dress. Foreigners wishing to be presented are presented by their respective ambassadors. It is considered a mark of respect for those ladies and gentlemen who have been presented to inscribe their names at the levee held at the Palace at Buckingham Palace whenever Her Majesty is in town. The room where it is kept is entered by the door to the left of the throne in Buckingham Palace nearest the Buckingham Gate. It is also customary to write down the name at Marlborough House for the Prince and Princess of Wales. The court festivities of the season, other than the levees and drawing-rooms given by the Prince and Princess of Wales to the Queen, consist of two concerts and two balls. To the concerts the whole of the diplomatic and civil list, comprising only the Diplomatic Ministry and the Household Officers, who are asked to both, and the highest members of the aristocracy, the invitations to whom are divided between the Queen and the Prince, the distinctions are invited to the concerts instead of the balls. The two balls, concerts and balls, the lists of persons to be invited to which are kept by the Lord Chamberlain and submitted to Her Majesty for her approval, are the only occasions invited in from eighteen hundred to two hundred, but it is much to be regretted that more balls are not given in the season, as they are admirably adapted for the purpose of bringing together all who are entitled by their social position to be invited are prevented by the impossibility of accommodating all who would like to attend. This being so, political adherents are frequently invited in preference to the social Members of Parliament, with their wives and daughters, figure largely in the list. The opportunity is also taken of inviting to the Queen's balls those who do not attend a drawing-room, and who do not appear every other year. The dress worn by gentlemen at a levee, concert or ball is the same as that which they wear at a drawing-room, and the "full dress" which are not required to appear in trains, knee-breeches and pumps. When there is a court mourning the dress worn is the same as that worn at a levee in mourning, which consists of a dress coat, waistcoat and pantaloons of black cloth, the ladies black, white, grey, or lilac and black, or white with a plain or fancy train over the upper part of the dress, and a black or white fan, and the drawing rooms and levees. If there is any doubt as to whether mourning is required to be worn on occasion there are two methods of procedure open to a doubt: an inquiry at the Lord Chamberlain's office, or a glance at the "full dress" in the Court Circular.

PESTH STATE DANCES.

How the Homecomings of the Constituents Amuse Them.

The following extracts from a private letter, which has been forwarded to us, describe some ceremonial dances in Pesth:

It was amusing in the morning to watch the country people streaming into the town in large and small parties, some on foot, others in gaily decked carts, with their horses gaily bedecked with ribbons and flowers. They had their costumes and dresses put on in the hotels, some with their hair already painted, and their hair done up in tapes in the oddest way possible. All the girls had the "tails" (native wooden drawers) worn making a great show of square, and when all the people were assembled we went and drove through the streets in a troupe of six, which had been put up to amuse us from the rest.

First came the school children. They passed up in single file, and passing inside the advertising the noted themselves up in the centre of the square, and stood at it (passing and repassing) and read a verse from the bible. Then they sang a hymn, dismissed, and came up in the same fashion with their writing on native came a dance as the "mohr." They rolled a little, divided into bands, and then came forward in a sort of dance, turning first to one side and then the other, moving in the most perfect time, and finally ranging themselves all their heads and hands, and the way in which the music, if one can so call it, was first of all sung by them in front of them taken up, a third lower, by those behind, was very effective. If I have time I will translate the "mohr" for you. It was "composed" for the occasion. When they had come close enough, on a signal from the first dancer, they all broke and ran away, which had been put up to screen us from the sun.

The native teacher called out the name of a country as "Peribania" (Britain) and one of the children in a low voice, as if prompting, said "Britania no naimaitis" (Britain is a kingdom). Then a thirteen-year-old girl came out, saying where Britain is, &c., &c., then, with a swaying motion of their bodies and a rythmical stepping of the feet, commenced dancing the ground, sometimes pointing on one side, sometimes the other, and sometimes joining hands together, and then dancing in a circle (representing the calmest, government, etc., of the British Isles), the whole school procession turned into a rather pretty dance. In this way they went through nearly all the countries in Europe, their school dance ending in a play of "God Save the Queen" in English, except the school children dancing.

Then came the event of the day, the great State "mohr." The first was the "Flying Fan Dance." From the half-ribbon reads leading out of the corners of the square came two bands of men dressed in like a sort of kilt: of green and white striped linen. Then were beautiful girls, the leaves lying very thick one piece anotner, and reaching below their knees. The men were very fine specimens of humanity; some had their faces blackened or painted black and red, and their heads done up in the most extraordinary way with tapes. Garlands of flowers and white tapes. Garlands of flowers and white tapes. Garlands of flowers and white

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CLUB RATES:

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LANDSCAPE MEMORIES.

An Autumn Boy in the Country

BY S. WEATHERBEE HARKINS.

The sun here risen'd in hair and shaw,
The transition here blended the red clay,
And here the golden and green of the hay,
The bright-eyed pheasants wonky draw;
But the grand glory
Is the land down yonder,
At black cold wonder comes to wish the thaw.

Leaves are turning to red and brown,
And the full, clear stream comes merrily down;
The rosy cheer hogs where the spiller grow,
And a faint sound comes of the distant town,
With a ring of bells
That fails and swells,
As on the grass the tired flocks down.

Apples are ripe on the other coast;
Weeds are gay in their Autumn dress;
Red and gold, all strong and bold,
Earth paints herself, with no disguise
Because of her age—
Ah, no!
To the last, and die in her royal dress.

O, but the green it cool and sweet
Under the trend of our naked feet!
And the water is cool in each broad pool,
And little brooks come up to meet
Each strong little limb,
As we wade and swim,
Or lie on the margin and dabble our feet.

And blue kingfishers dart and shoot
Down by the stream where the alders root;
With a chirrup of fear the heron's blue,
And a thought of innocent joy to boot—
O, just a day
Let us rest and play,
And remember the child, and forget the brute!

Ay, in this Autumn afternoon,
When the time draws on to the hunter's moon,
Let us forget, as the children do,
Trouble will come again over soon!
Such holiday hours
Be lull'd to rest
By rustle and ripple and cushat's croon.

FALSE TO HIMSELF.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "FOR LOVE'S SAKE ONLY," "HER OWN FAULT," "KATHERINE'S MISTAKE," "HOW NELLIE LOST HER CHANCE," ETC.

CHAPTER I.

A dull January afternoon, leaden-skied, a biting blast breathing down from low lines of snowy hills. A lonely unsheltered building, half manor and half farmhouse, standing on the slope of one of these hills, eastward, all its windows glittering red by the feathery snow—before it, a white expanse of lawn with a few garden-beds defined by uneven hummocks, or a ragged bushy standing like a ghost in its shapeless drapery; behind it, a crowd of stacks iced like Twelfth-cakes, and a farmyard crossed by manifold muddy tracks from stable to barn, from cow-house to chicken-coop, from pump to dairy. No snow lies on every roof but a dazzling slope, the top of the old paling weare an ermine border, the old tub under the frozen spout is filled to overflowing, up against the frost those long lines of bulging, latticed bay-window sills are softly cushioned, the snow covering half the lower panes.

It is a cold little Winter picture, sketched in gray and white, with no beauty whatever about it save the strange, silent beauty of the snow. But, pretty or ugly, there is no one to admire it, unless it is Katie Sheppard; and she appears to have something else to do this afternoon. She comes round the corner of the house, wrapped in her old red cloak, and sets off running down the path, leaving a deep track of her small footprints behind her on the snow.

She runs very fast, with her head bent, looking neither to right nor to left. She is a child of perhaps eight years, with a white, insignificant little face, and short, straight hair escaping from her well-worn black silk hood—light brown hair with a tinge of childish gold in it.

She knows where she is going, evidently, for she never hesitates for a moment when she comes to the gate at the end of the lawn, though she finds it locked. She is up and over it in an instant, and running through the plantation of young oaks and Scotch firs beyond. Here the snow is not so deep, because of the shelter, and dead twigs and withered fern show through it in places, blackened and damp. The path descends gradually till it comes out in a kind of grove of willows and broom, and is lost, beyond this, in a wilderness of stiff grass and tall frozen reeds, the border of a great sheet of less gray ice.

Here Katie comes to a standstill, her fast sinking among the brittle frozen leaves and the snow, and stares at the ice, at the rafter at the lines that cross and recross it in all directions. Then she raises her shrill young voice and cries:

"Blondel! Blondel Haydon!"

A boy's voice shouts in answer, and the sower comes skimming round some outlying bushes, with the unmistakable clinking ring of skates.

"Oh, Blondel, I was afraid I should find you here!" the girl cries, clasping her hands together.

"What's brought you here?" the boy asks brusquely.

"Uncle has just come back, and if he finds out where you are he'll kill you!"

"He'll not catch me first," Blondel says, carelessly.

"But he told you not to go on the ice, Blondel!"

"He told me he had rather I didn't. But, as I had rather I did, why, here I am!"—and Blondel takes another flight over the ice, his hands in his pockets, and a white muffler—Katie's handiwork—round his throat.

The girl watches him, with a strange mixture of admiration and apprehension in her eyes, standing shivering, with her small face more wrapped in her cloak than ever. Blondel, bold-eyed boy, dark as a Spaniard, with splendid long eyelashes, a beautiful mouth, and dark hair curling over his forehead. He looks about ten years old.

"Oh, do come home, Blondel," Katie pleads at last, apprehension getting supermost in her mind again. "Dinner will be ready—Sally was laying the table cloth when I came out—and you know uncle is always angry when you are late for dinner."

"I don't care about dinner. What on earth put it into your head to come after me here?"

"I missed your skates, and I was afraid uncle would miss you too."

"Did you do that Latin for me?" he asks, pausing for a moment and looking down at the frowning Katie with rather a bullying aspect.

"I did. But I hadn't time to work out the sums. Aunt Eliza was not so well to-day, and I had a lot of things to do. Besides, you know this is Saturday, and I had your socks to mend."

"You ought to be working them out then, instead of worrying down here. Cut home now and me about them, and mind you don't scamp any of them, or I'll scamp you!"—and, with this vaguely terrible threat, Blondel is away again. He is pleasantly aware with excitement, but Katie is shivering with cold, yet she will not go back.

"Dear Blondel, I can't go home without you. Uncle will be sure to ask me where you are, and if he asks me I must tell him."

"If you had saved yourself the trouble of coming after me, you could have said you didn't know," Blondel remarks, unfeelingly.

"Oh, do come, Blondel!" she murmurs again.

"Rather take you, you little cat!" she boy exclaims; but after one or two further excursions he unbuckles his skates, flings them over his shoulder, and sets out deliberately homewards.

Katie follows him, glad to have gained his point shortly (as). Blondel never addresses her all the way up to the house, never turns to see

did her ever the pain, never even turns his head to see whether she crosses it or not.

The sun has not beyond the long, low line of snowy hills, and it is freezing hard. Katie is paler than ever from this intense cold, but she makes no complaint, only following her companion patiently, trying to plant her own small feet in his footprints. They do not go up to the front door, but round the corner of the house to the yard. Here Blondel hands his skates to Katie.

"Put them in my room. I'm going to get my dinner from Sally."

The child takes them obediently, and goes into the house. A narrow passage leads through the house to the front door. In the passage she meets Mr. Haydon.

"Where were you at dinner-time?" he asks, roughly.

"I was out, uncle William."

"Then you had no business to be out. Where is Blondel?"

"He has just come in."

She tries to slip by him in the dusk, but he seizes her arm and shakes her, and is so doing discovers the skates.

"What's these on the other corner?

Whose are gay in their Autumn dress;
Red and gold, all strong and bold,
Earth paints herself, with no disguise
Because of her age—
Ah, no!
To the last, and die in her royal dress.

O, but the green it cool and sweet
Under the tread of our naked feet!
And the water is cool in each broad pool,
And little brooks come up to meet
Each strong little limb,
As we wade and swim,
Or lie on the margin and dabble our feet.

And blue kingfishers dart and shoot
Down by the stream where the alders root;
With a chirrup of fear the heron's blue,
And a thought of innocent joy to boot—
O, just a day
Let us rest and play,
And remember the child, and forget the brute!

Ay, in this Autumn afternoon,
When the time draws on to the hunter's moon,
Let us forget, as the children do,
Trouble will come again over soon!
Such holiday hours
Be lull'd to rest
By rustle and ripple and cushat's croon.

FALSE TO HIMSELF.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "FOR LOVE'S SAKE ONLY," "HER OWN FAULT," "KATHERINE'S MISTAKE," "HOW NELLIE LOST HER CHANCE," ETC.

CHAPTER I.

A dull January afternoon, leaden-skied, a biting blast breathing down from low lines of snowy hills. A lonely unsheltered building, half manor and half farmhouse, standing on the slope of one of these hills, eastward, all its windows glittering red by the feathery snow—before it, a white expanse of lawn with a few garden-beds defined by uneven hummocks, or a ragged bushy standing like a ghost in its shapeless drapery; behind it, a crowd of stacks iced like Twelfth-cakes, and a farmyard crossed by manifold muddy tracks from stable to barn, from cow-house to chicken-coop, from pump to dairy. No snow lies on every roof but a dazzling slope, the top of the old paling weare an ermine border, the old tub under the frozen spout is filled to overflowing, up against the frost those long lines of bulging, latticed bay-window sills are softly cushioned, the snow covering half the lower panes.

It is a cold little Winter picture, sketched in gray and white, with no beauty whatever about it save the strange, silent beauty of the snow. But, pretty or ugly, there is no one to admire it, unless it is Katie Sheppard; and she appears to have something else to do this afternoon. She comes round the corner of the house, wrapped in her old red cloak, and sets off running down the path, leaving a deep track of her small footprints behind her on the snow.

She runs very fast, with her head bent, looking neither to right nor to left. She is a child of perhaps eight years, with a white, insignificant little face, and short, straight hair escaping from her well-worn black silk hood—light brown hair with a tinge of childish gold in it.

She knows where she is going, evidently, for she never hesitates for a moment when she comes to the gate at the end of the lawn, though she finds it locked. She is up and over it in an instant, and running through the plantation of young oaks and Scotch firs beyond. Here the snow is not so deep, because of the shelter, and dead twigs and withered fern show through it in places, blackened and damp. The path descends gradually till it comes out in a kind of grove of willows and broom, and is lost, beyond this, in a wilderness of stiff grass and tall frozen reeds, the border of a great sheet of less gray ice.

Here Katie comes to a standstill, her fast sinking among the brittle frozen leaves and the snow, and stares at the ice, at the rafter at the lines that cross and recross it in all directions. Then she raises her shrill young voice and cries:

"Blondel! Blondel Haydon!"

A boy's voice shouts in answer, and the sower comes skimming round some outlying bushes, with the unmistakable clinking ring of skates.

"Oh, Blondel, I was afraid I should find you here!" the girl cries, clasping her hands together.

"What's brought you here?" the boy asks brusquely.

"Uncle has just come back, and if he finds out where you are he'll kill you!"

"He'll not catch me first," Blondel says, carelessly.

"But he told you not to go on the ice, Blondel!"

"He told me he had rather I didn't. But, as I had rather I did, why, here I am!"—and Blondel takes another flight over the ice, his hands in his pockets, and a white muffler—Katie's handiwork—round his throat.

The girl watches him, with a strange mixture of admiration and apprehension in her eyes, standing shivering, with her small face more wrapped in her cloak than ever. Blondel, bold-eyed boy, dark as a Spaniard, with splendid long eyelashes, a beautiful mouth, and dark hair curling over his forehead. He looks about ten years old.

"Oh, do come home, Blondel," Katie pleads at last, apprehension getting supermost in her mind again. "Dinner will be ready—Sally was laying the table cloth when I came out—and you know uncle is always angry when you are late for dinner."

"I don't care about dinner. What on earth put it into your head to come after me here?"

"I missed your skates, and I was afraid uncle would miss you too."

"Did you do that Latin for me?" he asks, pausing for a moment and looking down at the frowning Katie with rather a bullying aspect.

"I did. But I hadn't time to work out the sums. Aunt Eliza was not so well to-day, and I had a lot of things to do. Besides, you know this is Saturday, and I had your socks to mend."

"You ought to be working them out then, instead of worrying down here. Cut home now and me about them, and mind you don't scamp any of them, or I'll scamp you!"—and, with this vaguely terrible threat, Blondel is away again. He is pleasantly aware with excitement, but Katie is shivering with cold, yet she will not go back.

"Dear Blondel, I can't go home without you. Uncle will be sure to ask me where you are, and if he asks me I must tell him."

"If you had saved yourself the trouble of coming after me, you could have said you didn't know," Blondel remarks, unfeelingly.

"Oh, do come, Blondel!" she murmurs again.

"Rather take you, you little cat!" the boy exclaims; but after one or two further excursions he unbuckles his skates, flings them over his shoulder, and sets out deliberately homewards.

Katie follows him, glad to have gained his point shortly (as). Blondel never addresses her all the way up to the house, never turns to see

did her ever the pain, never even turns his head to see whether she crosses it or not.

The sun has not beyond the long, low line of snowy hills, and it is freezing hard. Katie is paler than ever from this intense cold, but she makes no complaint, only following her companion patiently, trying to plant her own small feet in his footprints. They do not go up to the front door, but round the corner of the house to the yard. Here Blondel hands his skates to Katie.

"Put them in my room. I'm going to get my dinner from Sally."

The child takes them obediently, and goes into the house. A narrow passage leads through the house to the front door. In the passage she meets Mr. Haydon.

"Where were you at dinner-time?" he asks, roughly.

"I was out, uncle William."

"Then you had no business to be out. Where is Blondel?"

"He has just come in."

She tries to slip by him in the dusk, but he seizes her arm and shakes her, and in

Enid's Secret.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "OUIDA," "A WEEK'S CONFESSION," ETC.

CHAPTER VIII.

The season was over. Londina had been left by everybody who was anybody at all, at least as soon as Ascot Week had let loose the nerves of assistants, for as still lingered in town by my special duties—why, she was utterly at a loss to comprehend.

"And the heat is simply unbearable. I am almost suffocated and dying this morning," said cruelly. Enid, when no one is in town. I cannot see why we should not go to Dene at once."

"A few days can't make such a difference, aunt," I pleaded. "To stay just a little longer. The Stantons and Rivers and lots of other people are still in London."

I was in a state of anxiety to remain little dreamt of by my aunt for I had heard news of Champney's arrival that had quickened the pulses of my heart almost to cause beating, and then to throb so wildly as almost to suffocate me.

I had been sitting very listlessly in the morning room with my aunt when our letters were brought in, some ten days after Lady Downside's ball. Miss were principally invitations, which I threw aside with little interest, as I had noted to endow further frivolities for the present at all events. Aunt Katherine's were lengthy epistles but I was seldom interested in her correspondence. Fun particular Something myself her utter an exclamation, adding with some

"One never ought to believe anything till it has taken place. Just fancy, Enid!" addressing me, "Lady Venetia is to Monte Carlo anywhere about. Here is a letter from Lady Venetia Vipont, with whom he is staying at present, and she says he is terribly annoyed at the report having been circulated

At first the relief was so intense that I could not realize the news, and, happily for me, my aunt was too intent upon her letters to observe the change in her niece's face.

"May I read her letter?" I asked, presently.

"Well one minute," requested her aunt. "I have a few lines from Geraldine Sefton here, wanting us to choose some wedding favors for her bonnets at Brandon's, down at Thierry's, and a whole host of things at Soulevaux. I hate answering commissions one is sure to do wrong more than half the time. I should say Geraldine had better consult her dressmaker, and see after her own affairs—she forgets I'm not so young as I once was."

"I'll help you, aunt," cried I, with the sensation of a great load of lead lifted from my heart. "Show me Lady Venetia's letter." I concluded all anxiety to satisfy myself with the evidence of my own eyes on a point of such overpowering interest to me.

"I want you to read it aloud to me she writes such a queer hand. I never can make out half what is in her letters."

For an instant a pang shot through me but the indifferent manner I might have caused aunt Katherine to be in error as to the tidings it conveyed. However, my eyes were not slow to decipher it, though I read it slowly aloud. This was its contents:

"My Dear Mrs Pevensey.—We hope to have a large party here for the 12th of August, and, though it is quite early off, I want you kind Enid to promise to spend at least a week with me then—and I am afraid, with all your engagements, I should be unable to ask you for another year until nearer the time. We enjoyed our brief stay in town very much, but I am forever sorry for poor myself as Malvin with the children. The country is looking so exquisite, it is a shame to stay in any longer than one. We have Lord Mostyn with us at present. He came from Mostyn Court a couple of days ago, and we were all so surprised to hear from him that there is no truth whatsoever"—

"That is indeed unfortunate, isn't it?" asked my aunt—"in regard of his engagement to Lady Juliette. As one knows how it has arisen, but I am sure it is from no fault of his. He asked me to postpone it whenever I had an opportunity. I am very glad to hear it is not broken off, as I rather feared very much for the young lady. He seems so in a fine state, and will be passing through town shortly, and I shall be able to hear all from him. I am sure I am very pleased to hear that Lord Mostyn is not going to be married to Lady Juliette, for I always thought that they were not at all suited to each other. Have you finished, Enid?"

"Yes, aunt," I answered, with a sensation of

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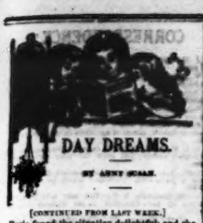

DAY DREAMS.

BY ANNY SHARP.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.]

Rosie found the stimulus delightful, and the ink down, with much satisfaction, into the neat, smooth and cosy, with paper and pencil resting on her improvised desk, formed of her ancient atlas, to write her essay, and thus commenced:

"There are many legends connected with the foundation of the early Roman Empire. One seems to be taken from the Greek, and differs from it only in consequence of the destruction of Troy, was led by a star to Italy. As the star there disappeared, he knew he had arrived at his destination. Furthermore, he had been told by an oracle that a four-footed animal would rest on the spot where he should build a city. Therefore he must forth a milk-white cow.

"O! dear," thought Rosie, "what a shocking account. No! I never could read that about before all the school."

She tore up her paper, scattering the fragments on the water, and, with a new sheet and a freshly cut pencil, commenced again:

"Process the King of Alba Longa, had a daughter named Rhea Silvia, whom, against her will, to become a vestal virgin, her duty being to watch the ever-burning fire before the image of the Goddess Vesta. She was privately married to the God Mars, and had twin children, who were cast into the river Tiber, and closed in a basket. They were not drowned, for they floated to the foot of the hill Palatine, where they landed under a fig tree. Those were the names of the kings of Alba (I forget), who founded the great city of Rome on seven hills."

Here again Rosie stopped, biting the end of her pencil. "Good gracious!" she thought, "what a simpleton I am, and what a dunce I was to undertake to do a thing in which I shall never succeed. How happy I would be if some good fairy would take my pencil, and write me a composition containing everything so nice about the horrid old Romans that all the school would be surprised at my superior knowledge. Then, I suppose, our principal would condescend to praise me, and say: 'This is really a fine composition. I always thought, Rosie, you had talent if you only would apply to it.' I would get the well-earned the prize, and I would not wonder if one of those days, you should become an authoress, and write a book!"

By this time, Rosie, in the ecstacy of her commencing day dream, had nestled so far down into her broad seat that her head rested on the cushioned back. "How delightfully cool the air is!" she thought, as she rose recline, "and how pleasant the wavy motion. If we could have had the history of Marc Antony and Cleopatra for our subject, there would have been something to write about. The elegant, beautiful Cleopatra! How magnificent must have been her large that—

"Like a tarnished incense
Which the poet in a moment of thought
Purple the walls, and so perfumed that the wind was
love-sick with delight."

Poor Rosie! She had forgotten everything, composition and all, and her boat was drifting down the river.

The first sentence that awakened Rosie from her reverie was an imagined grating sound on a sandy shore. She rose from her seat, and was surprised to find the boat resting beneath a huge pile of rocks, while the white sand, lying in patches about her, glistened like particles of shining silver. A hazy light hung over the spot, partially obscuring, yet brightening the whole scene. Where could she be? She looked around her, but in amazement. Then a flight of stairs cut in the rock attracted her attention. She immediately ascended them, and came to a landing, when a door, with a large plate of brass key protruding from the lock, met her view.

As she reached her hand toward the key, it turned of itself with a harsh sound, and the door opened slowly, showing a passage which she fearlessly entered, and walked, until she came to a second door, which also opened, and she found herself in an apartment, the walls of which were hung with rich drapery.

A table stood in its midst, covered with a cloth woven of golden threads, and five golden dishes, containing smoking hot soup, were ranged around it. By the side of each plate was a spoon, a fork and a goblet, all of the same precious metal, the goblet filled to the brim with wine of a ruby color. Beside each plate was a small piece of white bread, partially covered with a napkin, and great blocks of gold were placed for seats around the table. Five little beds were standing near the wall, and these completed the furniture of the strange apartment.

Rosie felt hungry as she inhaled the fragrance of the smoking soup, and viewed the ruby wine, sparkling in its golden cups. The bread, too, as white, and its crisp brown crust, looked so inviting that she longed to taste it. Gently she drew near. She lifted up a golden spoon, and sipped a little of the gaudy fluid. She then drank a little wine from each goblet, and last of all broke a crumb of bread from each white piece.

Immediately a dizziness stole over her, and she threw herself upon one of the little beds, being unable to keep her feet from the strangeness of her sensations.

Rosie knew not how long she slept she never knew. She was at last awakened by the noise of tongues; and she opened her eyes to see such a strange group of little red men that she shall never forget. They were all very ugly, saving she would be immediately disrecollected.

"High!" said one of the little red men, "somebody has been eating my soup."

"High!" said another, "somebody has been drinking my wine."

"High!" said a third, "somebody has been eating my bread."

Rosie heard all this and trembled with fear. She made an attempt to draw the coverlid over her, hoping to escape attention. Unfortunately, the coverlid was of gold, and the rustling noise made by it roused another of the imps to cry out:

"High! somebody is trying on my bed!"

Then they all came forward, and, lifting Rosie up, they set her at the table, each one crying out: "Eat, my boy, eat my bread, drink my wine." Rosie knew had to stop her ears to the cries of the little men.

During the little red men at last on hospitality, Rosie found courage to say that she owned the property, and would like to go home. But they only laughed at her, and kept playing the most ridiculous pranks.

"You must stay with us!" they cried. "We are the five red genuses of the mountain, and we have treasures in abundance, and you shall have your treasure, if you will only stay with us."

Rosie was frightened at this, and feared she would never behold the light of the sun. She therefore resolved to get out of the room, she thought that perhaps she might escape. She rose from her seat to her eyes and he called.

"No! said he, "please let me go!" I have to attend to my father's flocks in the morning, and I shall not be there. Please let me go!" But the genius grew angry, and he flashed fierce fires from his eyes. They seemed a great deal worse than the rain, pouring upon her, and the wind, howling, and the terrible thunder raging in her ears.

She started up in affright, to find herself alone on the river, the boat tossed to and fro by the waves, and a wild storm around her. The setting sun had gone from her and her clothes were saturated with water.

It happened, fortunately for Rosie, that Will Brown's father had left school somewhat early, and was fishing that afternoon, and, like her, was caught in the storm. As they were making for the shore, they saw her boat struggling in the waves, and heard repeated screams of terror. They rowed to her assistance, where was no appearance of anyone being there.

They immediately rowed to the boat, and, with great surprise, saw Rosie lying in a fainting condition within it.

The storm was soon over, and Rosie, rescued from her perilous position, was carried safely home. She suffered severely from the effects of her adventure, and was for a long time confined to her room. She never could be convinced but that her encounter with the gnomes was real, and that the storm from which she had suffered was brought about by their malignant power.

Rosie's parents were greatly in hopes that this adventure would be the end of her daydreams, and she promised that it should be, but her books had been cast away by the bold of her, that the very next Sunday at church, thinking of the danger from which she had been rescued, she said to herself: "God is very good to me, and I ought to be a good, religious girl. How nice it would be if I could never do wrong. Then every one would say: What a charming girl Rosie Bloomfield is!' And if I should again be in danger of losing my life, I should not be afraid, for if I did not escape I should go right straight to heaven."

My little friends, I would advise you never to indulge in day dreaming. It is a pernicious habit and very difficult to eradicate.

[THE END.]

OCCASIONAL CHAT.

How often has "the human foot divine" formed the subject of the poet's theme and given a point to lovers' rhapsodies! Homer, in his iliad, designates Thetis "the silver-footed queen," and the Israelites, in his Tenth Idyllium, put into the mouth of Rachel the rhapsody:

"Chestnut, Rundgren, rest my moisture great,
Hear lovely, fair, and beautiful your dear!"

The fact, according to the myth, formed not an unimportant element in the judgment of Paris, when he was called upon to decide who was the fairest of the three goddesses, Venus, Juno, or Minerva, who figured in the possession of the golden apple which the goddess of discord had thrown amongst them, and it is said:

"Their feet he marked as gracefully they moved,
And round their feet his eyes sagacious roved.
Mother, in his findings for the Rosebud exquisite accord,
with his findings for the Rosebud exquisite accord,
with his findings for the Rosebud exquisite accord,
with

CHIC.

There is no English phrase into which the word at the head of this page can be translated. No tongue has the power to define what it means when we say that a person has chic. It means what it means. *If you are not chic yourself you cannot understand what chic is.* It must be in your pores before you can see it; it must be born in you before you can feel its presence. Lifeless monster—not fit.

Some are born chic, some achieve chic, but most can have chic thrust upon them. If you are not chic by the time you reach forty on earth you will be chic in the hereafter—or else you drive it into you. It is sprightly, delicate, quaint spirit, a very Ariel; ever busy, ever creating, ever present; made up of atoms, which, when put together, are sympathy with it—it can find at every step, it immediately develops. One may pick them out of a hodgepodge, or pay a hundred thousand pounds for them, but they cannot be found in a handful; out of what is ugly; out of what is peculiar-chic; out of what is singular or cheap; out of what is odious; out of what is unsightly; out of what is merry; out of what is sad—out of what is anything; they become true artistic-refined proportion, for when you put two and two together, they make at least seven, and if all that was ugly and stupid, and out of the way, and unnatural, was left out, and the rest put together, they would be heaven. They have such other like opposites as mirrors. They repeat what they see, but they make it look as if it were the most beautiful thing that ever was, and it is chic, and clear and perfume all over it. The hardest thing to make you see is that you have chic at all. If you "know" you are not, imagination is fatal. Chic is always unconscious of itself. It is never self in manifestation. A masculine chic is an impossibility. It is a feminine. There is no sense of humor in chic. There is no sense of humor in the Venus de Milo, the Greek Slave, the Three Graces, the Medici Venus, or the Venus in the Louvre, or her stranded sister who has had her nose broken off. Chic is the spirit that has created them, and it is with the chic that we go to picture-houses, or hear crowd and then. They have chic, and they are chic for, and consequently become feminine, so must women who have been feminine, or who have not, become chic. Chic is the spirit that has created brilliancy, even in face powder, and consequently become feminine, so must women who have been feminine, or who have not, become chic. A little paper-gray powder on the face, and on the throat may be the means by which one finds out how much chic it is, and a shade more or less of rouge on the cheeks, and a touch of carmine on the lips may be the means by which one finds out if you "know" you are lacking in feminine. Chic is always feminine, never lacking, lacking which it is inartistic effects. A masculine chic is an impossibility. It is a feminine. There is no sense of humor in chic. There is no sense of humor in the Venus de Milo, the Greek Slave, the Three Graces, the Medici Venus, or the Venus in the Louvre, or her stranded sister who has had her nose broken off. Chic is the spirit that has created them, and it is with the chic that we go to picture-houses, or hear crowd and then. They have chic, and they are chic for